

EATT

Early Adult Transition Task Force

September 2006

Sponsored by: Michigan Department of Community Health,
Children's Special Health Care Services



Thanks to everyone who enjoyed the first EATT Newsletter. We received many positive comments and hope that this will continue. Again, another personal story is included on the first page, along with a description of resources that are helpful to young adults during the time of transition. The EATT has chosen to educate young adults about health care and the transition to adulthood. This newsletter is written and edited by young adults with special health care needs. If you are interested in writing a story or sharing resources that have been helpful to you during your transition we would love for you to share. All you have to do is call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 and ask for Gina or e-mail her at tremontig@michigan.gov. You can also call the same number to add yourself to the EATT Newsletter mailing list to make sure you keep receiving helpful information.

What is Age of Majority?

- ☒ The Age of Majority in Michigan is 18.
- ☒ Michigan law says you are an adult at age 18.
- ☒ Because of this you are now able to legally make your own decisions.
- ☒ When 18, all of your rights are transferred from your parents to you.
- ☒ Because of this law, sometimes if you want your parents to help with decisions you will need to fill out a form called an Authorization form.
- ☒ It is a good idea to fill out an authorization form at the Doctors office if your parents help you make medical decisions.

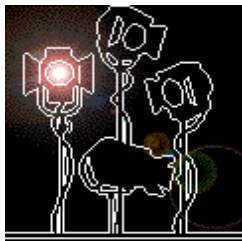
My Story... Kira



The clock strikes 7:30 AM I walk down my stairs in the most pain and agony I've ever had. Waking my parents to a question that no thirteen year old girl should ever have to ask her Mother, "can you please tie my shoes?" My Mom replies "these growing pains are just out of control." When we get to the doctors office the last thing I thought was wrong with me was arthritis. Most people think of arthritis as a disease that only old people get. Contrary to what most people think there are approximately 300,000 children that have some type of arthritis (kidshealth.org) and of that 300,000 there are close to 50,000 children that have juvenile rheumatoid arthritis also known as JRA, ([kids health.org](http://kidshealth.org)) which is the kind I was diagnosed with.

Unfortunately the only way to live a productive healthy life with JRA is medications, exercise, and a wholesome diet. Recently when I turned 21 I lost CSHCS in addition to my primary health insurance. I tried to get Medicaid through Social Security and The Department of Human Services, they both denied me. Like so many before me and most of you after me will have to ask yourself the same question "should I buy myself individual health insurance or continue my education?" Well, of course I chose health insurance. However, currently I have downgraded my individual health insurance because I have a good job with benefits. I will also be going back to college this fall. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Resource Spotlight...



Attention: Adult Benefit Waiver Open Enrollment

The Adult Benefit Waiver also sometimes called the ABW is having an open enrollment period beginning September 1, 2006-October 31, 2006. The ABW is a Medicaid program for adults who typically don't meet the guidelines for many other Medicaid programs and have a low income. Many young adults receive Medicaid when they are disabled. Because you are on Children's Special Health Care Services does not always mean that you will qualify for Medicaid as an adult when CSHCS coverage ends at the age of 21. The Adult Benefit Waiver may be able to provide coverage, although it does not cover everything. If you don't currently have Medicaid or any other health insurance you can visit your local Department of Human Services office and get more information about this program.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance:



If you don't have prescription coverage and can't afford your medicines, you could get help paying for them. The Partnership for Prescription Assistance is a program brought together by America's drug companies and community groups to get medicines for those in need. With this program many people without prescription coverage have received their brand-name medicines for free or nearly free. Just know the names of your medicines you take and call the toll-free number 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669). A trained specialist will answer your question and help you find prescription assistance programs that you might be eligible for. You can also visit the Partnership for Prescription Assistance on the web at www.pparx.org.

CSHCS-Transition to Adulthood on the Web

Children's Special Health Care Services has additional resources through the web on their internet site. Visit www.michigan.gov/cshcs and click on the "Transition to Adulthood" link. There are planning tools and other documents available for download to assist in the transition planning process. This webpage also has links to other websites that may be of interest to young adults. Check it out!

What is the Early Adult Transition Task-Force?

The Early Adult Transition Task-Force or EATT is a group of young adults with special health care needs who have come together to get the word out about the transition to adulthood for other young adults experiencing similar situations as they transition. The group has had one face to face meeting and is planning to have one more meeting this year. During other times communication is done mostly through e-mail, telephone, and mail. A representative from the EATT also sits on the Children's Special Health Care Services Advisory Committee to advise the program on policy that may affect young adults. The EATT is a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference. If you are interested in attending an EATT meeting or assisting in putting together newsletters please call Gina Tremonti through the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 or e-mail her at tremontig@michigan.gov.



Right: Picture of the last EATT meeting in Lansing, April 2006.